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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God our Father, we wait for some word from You that will set our lives on new paths. Give us the power to live as Your loyal children. Lift our hands and hearts with the inspiration of Your divine presence. Fill us with Your compassion so that we will be willing to bear the burdens of others.

Today, use the Members of this body for Your purposes. Help them to treat others with reverence, respect, and kindness. As they seek to understand each other, give them a unity of mind and purpose. In these challenging times, make them Your partners in rescuing the perishing and caring for the dying.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, following the 30-minute morning business period today, we will begin a 1-hour block of time related to the secure fence bill. When that 1 hour of debate is concluded, we will proceed to the vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006. That vote is likely to begin shortly after 11 a.m. this morning. It is my hope that cloture will be invoked. Once cloture is invoked, we would like to reach an agreement to proceed to the bill as quickly as possible.

I remind everyone that we will be finishing our business at the conclusion of next week; therefore, it will require everyone's cooperation in order to finish all of the must-do items before we depart.

TERRORIST SURVEILLANCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, many Members have asked where we are with regard to the terrorist military tribunal and the terrorist surveillance legislation. With regard to the terrorist tribunal, as I have said repeatedly and restated yesterday, the legislation that leaves this Senate floor absolutely must achieve two goals: first, preserve the intelligence programs that we know have saved American

lives; second, protect classified information from terrorists who could exploit it to plan another terrorist attack against the United States—preserve intelligence programs that are lifesaving and protect classified information from terrorists who can use that information against us.

As many of those watching know, after a lot of back and forth last week, Senators WARNER, GRAHAM, and MCCAIN have engaged with the administration and have sent an offer to the White House that moves toward the President to meet the goals of a program that keeps information flowing from these terrorists who want to destroy our country and kill our citizens. Without passing their plan through the Senate, these Senators have been good enough to sit down with the administration. Discussions are underway to find common ground and to move toward those stated goals. I am hopeful that very soon an agreement can be reached with the President and with the majority of Republicans who know that we need an effective interrogation program that can get information from terrorists so we can make America safer.

As well, we need a law that allows us to put these terrorists on trial for the crimes they have planned and executed against our country. Right now, we cannot do that. That is why this legislation is so important. But we need to do it in a way that we are not sharing classified information with those terrorists, who clearly will pass it on to others around the world to be used against us.

With continued cooperation, it is possible that in the next few days a resolution can be arrived at that satisfies the vast majority of Senate Republicans and the President, so that together we can all move forward in making this country safer.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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